

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04143 021029Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PM-03 SP-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /034 W
-----128776 021045Z /21

O 020949Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8100
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4143

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, US,AF
SUBJ: RECOGNITION OF NEW AFGHAN REGIME

REF: (A) STATE 110165, (B) TEHRAN 04114, (C) KABUL 3397

1. I MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ZELLI AT NOON MAY 2 TO REVIEW SITUATION ON RECOGNIZING NEW AFGHANISTAN REGIME. I GAVE HIM TEXT OF NOTE PROPOSED IN REF C, POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS AMB ELIOT'S SUGGESTION WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY WASHINGTON.
2. I SAID THAT DEPARTMENT HAD INDICATED IT WAS INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH ELIOT'S PROPOSAL AND WOULD LIKE VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS OF IRAN AND PAKISTAN. I DID NOT RPT NOT MENTION TIMETABLE CONTAINED REF C.
3. ZELLI, WITH HIS USUAL CAUTION, SAID HE HAD NO RPT NO FORMAL IRANIAN REACTION AT THIS TIME. HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER BY PHONE WITH COURT MINISTER HOVEYDA, WHO IS IN SHIRAZ WITH THE
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 04143 021029Z

SHAH. HOVEYDA SAID SHAH HAD DECIDED TO DELAY DECISION UNTIL HE COULD TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY, WHO ARRIVED IN TEHRAN LAST NIGHT AND LEFT THIS MORNING FOR SHIRAZ IN COMPANY OF VISITING ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. ZELLI THEREFORE HOPED TO HAVE FURTHER GUIDANCE LATER TODAY.

4. IN GIVING HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION, ZELLI SAID

HE FELT NEW REGIME WAS CURRENTLY IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF COUNTRY. HE REGARDED ITS ORIENTATION AS TOTALLY PRO-SOVIET AND EXPECTED A GENERAL DETERIORATION OF AFGHAN RELATIONS WITH IRAN. IN RECONSTRUCTING EVENTS, HE FELT BLAME FOR CURRENT TRAGEDY HAD TO BE PLACED ON DAOUD, WHO HAD FAILED TO DELIVER ON THE PROMISES OF HIS OWN REVOLUTION, AND WHO THEREFORE HAD CREATED THE DISSATISFACTION WHICH THE COMMUNISTS HAD EXPLOITED. IN THE LONG RUN, HOWEVER, ZELLI WONDERED WHETHER THIS "HANDFUL OF COMMUNISTS IN KABUL" COULD SUCCEED IN CONTROLLING THE CONSERVATIVE, RELIGIOUS TRIBAL PEOPLE. HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL AND VERY CLEVER IF THEY ARE TO SUCCEED.

5. COMMENT: I ASSUME WE WILL HAVE POSITIVE IRANIAN VIEW ON RECOGNITION WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR SO. HOWEVER, IT MAY NOT COME IN TIME FOR MAY 3 MEETING SCHEDULED IN KABUL OR FOR MAY 4 DELIVERY OF OUR NOTE. I THEREFORE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND THAT WE DELAY OUR TIMETABLE BRIEFLY UNTIL THE IRANIANS GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER. IT WOULD SEEM MOST INAPPROPRIATE, NOW THAT WE HAVE CONSULTED THEM IN ACCORDANCE REF A, FOR US TO MOVE AHEAD BEFORE WE HAVE THEIR REACTION.
SULLIVAN

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